



DATE: December 8, 1982

TO: Division File

FROM: Jim Wiggins

SUBJECT: General - C83-79N - Kankakee County - Rusk Crop Spraying

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



355570

On November 24, 1982, Charles Gebien and I, along with Jay Patel of DWPC-Maywood staff, investigated a complaint concerning improper handling of pesticides at Rusk Crop Spraying Service, based at the Greater Kankakee Airport.

Rusk Crop Spraying is located immediately adjacent to Russell Aviation, another aerial service company engaged in the same business. At the time of the investigation Rusk Aviation was shut down for the winter months. Discharge from the field tile appeared clear indicating probably surface run-off. Joe Russell of Russell Aviation explained that when Rusk's facility is in operation the mixing and loading area drains into an underground storage tank. This storage tank either overflows into or is directly connected to a field tile which discharges into a drainage ditch about 200 yards away. The ditch in turn flows into the Kankakee River about 2 miles away. During times of heavy rain, Mr. Russell stated that the tank frequently overflows into the field tile and the water discharged into the ditch has a yellow color which is characteristic of some of the Nitro compounds used by the facility. He also stated that several months ago flow from the pipe into the ditch was temporarily blocked causing the water to back up which resulted in killing an area of grass on his front lawn.

Mr. Russell also stated that during the months of operation the underground tank is pumped out by Rusk from time to time and hauled away. He stated that he did not know where the material was being taken. A preliminary search of LPC files shows no supplemental permits have been issued to Rusk Crop Spraying for disposal of pesticide contaminated wastewaters.

Visual inspection of the area showed an area of burned grass on the front lawn of Mr. Russell's property. The contents of the underground tank could not be sampled or observed due to heavy ice accumulation over the lid.

At the conclusion of the investigation, LPC and WPC staff agreed with Mr. Russell that since the storage tank was probably now empty any sampling or other Agency action would be more meaningful when operations resume at Rusk Aviation early next spring. Mr. Russell agreed to contact the Agency immediately when operations resume.

JKW:prb

cc: Northern Region
Ken Bechely
Jay Patel, DWPC
A.G. Taylor

RECEIVED

DEC 29 1982

**E.P.A. — D.L.P.C.
STATE OF ILLINOIS**